

June 26, 2009



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Dear Friend,

At a time when we are experiencing the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, **the recovery of the American economy must be the principal focus of the Congress.** With a 9.4 percent unemployment rate in the country as a whole and an 11.5 percent rate in our own state of California, it is not the time for additional burdens to be imposed on our economy. In this regard, the intention of the House leadership to push the Waxman-Markey cap and trade legislation is simply the wrong policy at the wrong time. In fact, Warren Buffet just this week repeated his criticism of cap and trade as a method to control pollution, saying "it would be a huge, regressive tax."

Under a cap and trade system the government would establish a cap on the amount of carbon which can be emitted. Companies then buy and sell permits which allow them to emit carbon dioxide. Over time the cap is ratcheted down. The costs borne by American companies would then be passed on to consumers. As President Obama himself explained, "Under my plan of a cap and trade system the electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket. Coal power plants, natural gas, you name it, whatever the industry was, they would have to retrofit their operations. That will cost money. That money will be passed on to their consumers."

It is particularly disturbing that we are placing new burdens on our economy while our competitors in the global marketplace have chosen not to impose these shackles on themselves. For example, China is the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases. China is heavily dependent on coal for energy and manufacturing and has more coal fired power plants than the United States. Yet, according to the *Washington Post* Chinese ministry spokesman said that China would not agree to reduce its emissions. Spokesman Qin Gang said, "[I]t is natural for China to have some increase in its emissions, so it is not possible for China in that context to accept a binding or compulsory target." At a time when a sustainable economic recovery will require America to be able to export our goods and services in an

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increasingly global economic market it is the wrong time for us to be imposing massive regulatory burdens on ourselves.

In California, unemployment is 11.5 percent. One in every 173 homes is somewhere in the process of foreclosure (the second highest foreclosure rate in the nation). Since the beginning of the year, 2.9 million jobs have been lost nationwide. Pushing through *anew tax* on Americans will only serve to further increase residential energy costs, stifle job creation, and send more jobs overseas where businesses may not have to comply with caps on greenhouse gas emissions.

H.R. 2454 makes economic growth and environmental stewardship two competing interests when they can complement each other. I believe in the innovative spirit of Americans. **We can find creative ways to develop clean energy and reduce our dependence on foreign oil *without* adding additional burdens to American families and small businesses.** To this end, my NOPEC bill would create a \$1 billion prize to the first automobile manufacturer incorporated in the United States to successfully manufacture a midsize sedan that operates on gasoline and can travel 100 miles per gallon. It would also provide tax incentives for clean energy production with zero greenhouse gas emissions, provide funding for the creation of lithium ion battery for automobiles, make the solar tax credit permanent, and provide incentives for refining alternative fuels.

I appreciate the input I've received from many of my neighbors in the Third District and hope you will continue to reach out as Congress considers important national issues that impact us all locally. Please feel free to call my district office in Gold River at (916) 859-9906 or e-mail me using the contact form on my [website](#).

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Lungren
Member of Congress

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Washington Office • 2262 Rayburn HOB • Washington DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5716 • Fax: (202) 226-1298

District Office • 2339 Gold Meadow Way, Suite 220 #763 • Gold River, CA 95670
Phone: (916) 859-9906 • Fax: (916) 859-9976

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